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ABSTRACT

Maintaining that working with one's family to decide on purposes, visions, values, and a focus on the future will be a parent's most important leadership activity, these audiotapes and learning guide provide the tools for developing a family mission statement. Tape 1, side A introduces the urgency of a family mission statement, and provides an overview of the three-step process: (1) explore what the family is all about; (2) write the mission statement that encompasses desired characteristics of the home, effect upon family members, meaningfulness, and identified source of power (principles); and (3) stay on course. Side B of this tape details exploring the nature of the family, and includes ground rules and discussion questions. Tape 2, side A details the process of writing a family mission statement, and includes criteria of a good mission statement and sample mission statement processes. Side B of this second tape details staying on course, suggesting that family decisions be based on the mission statement and that families refer back to it as problems arise, and revise it as the family goes through transitions. This side also provides examples of challenges families may face in creating and living up to a mission statement. Sample mission statements are included. The accompanying learning guide answers frequently asked questions about mission statements, and outlines the three steps of the mission statement process. Several quotations relevant to purpose and values are presented, as are reflections on the family mission statement excerpted from the tapes. The learning guide concludes with sample mission statements. (HTH)

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